What is Claimed Is:

1. A method of analyzing the ownership costs of a complex system having a plurality of operations associated with the system, the method comprising:

5   using a first and a second node of a tree structure to represent a first and a second operation associated with the system;

using a branch of the tree structure to represent a first dependency between the first operation and the second operation; and

determining whether a third node represents the first operation.

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2. The method according to Claim 1, further comprising associating a cost with the first node, the cost to be further associated with the first operation.

3. The method according to Claim 2 further comprising, determining a total cost

15 associated with the first and the second operations including the cost associated with the first operation.

4. The method according to Claim 1, further comprising modifying the first node to represent a change of the first operation.

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5. The method according to Claim 4, further comprising disabling modifications to the second node.

6.   The method according to Claim 5, further comprising undoing the modification to the first node and enabling a subsequent modification.

5   7.   The method according to Claim 6, further comprising subsequently modifying the second node to reflect a change of the second operation.

8.   The method according to Claim 4, the modifying the first node further comprising modifying the first dependency.

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9.   The method according to Claim 1 further comprising determining whether a second branch branches from the first node, the first branch branching from the first node.

10.   A method of analyzing the ownership costs of a complex system having a plurality of operations associated with the system, the method comprising:

using a first and a second node of a tree structure to represent a first and a second operation associated with the system;

5   using a branch of the tree structure to represent a first dependency between the first operation and the second operation; and

determining whether a second branch branches from the first operation, the first branch branching from the first node.

10   11.   The method according to Claim 10, further comprising determining whether a third node represents the first operation.

12.   A cost model for a complex system to have a plurality of operations associated with the system, the model comprising:

a tree structure;

a first node representing a first operation associated with the system;

5   a second node representing a second operation associated with the system;

a branch branching from the first node representing a first dependency between the first and the second operations; and

a function determining whether a third node represents the first operation.

10   13.   The model according to Claim 12, further comprising a cost associated with the first node, the cost to be further associated with the first operation.

14.   The model according to Claim 13 further comprising, a total cost associated with the first and the second operations including the cost associated with the first operation.

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15.   The model according to Claim 12, wherein the first node may be modified to represent a change of the first operation.

16.   The model according to Claim 15, further comprising a function to disable

20   modifications to the second node if a modification has been made to the first node.

17. The model according to Claim 16, further comprising a function to undo the modification to the first node and to enable a subsequent modification.

18. The model according to Claim 17, wherein the second node may be modified to
5   represent a change in the second operation.

19. The model according to Claim 15, the changing the first node further comprising modifying the first dependency.

10   20. The model according to Claim 12 further comprising a function to determine whether a second branch branches from the first node, the first branch branching from the first node.

21.   A cost model for a complex system to have a plurality of operations associated with the system, the model comprising:

a tree structure;

a first node representing a first operation associated with the system;

5   a second node representing a second operation associated with the system;

a branch branching from the first node representing a first dependency between the first and the second operations; and

a function to determine whether a second branch branches from the first node.

10   22.   The model according to Claim 21, further comprising a function to determine whether a third node represents the first operation.

23.   A computer for modeling costs associated with a complex system having a plurality of operations associated with the system, the computer comprising:

a memory to store a tree structure including:

a first node representing a first operation associated with the system;

5   a second node representing a second operation associated with the system; and

a branch representing a first dependency between the first and the second operations;

a processor to determining whether a third node represents the first operation; and

an output to output a result of the determination.

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24.   The computer according to Claim 23, wherein the processor to further determine whether a second branch branches from the first node, the first branch branching from the first node.

25. A computer for modeling costs associated with a complex system having a plurality of operations associated with the system, the computer comprising:

a memory to store a tree structure including:

a first node representing a first operation associated with the system;

5   a second node representing a second operation associated with the system; and

a branch branching from the first node representing a first dependency between the first and the second operations;

a processor to determining whether a second branch branches from the first node; and

an output to output a result of the determination.

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26. The computer according to Claim 25, wherein the processor to further determine whether a third node represents the first operation.